



THE VICE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

December 6, 1999

Brownfields '99
Dallas, Texas

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to send my greetings to everyone participating in "Brownfields '99: Alliances for 21st Century Livability." While I regret not being able to join you in person, I want to extend my best wishes for a successful and productive event.

I commend the efforts of all the conference co-sponsors in developing this important event. Community revitalization and livability are vital pieces of our strategy to strengthen America for the 21st Century, and your vision and commitment are integral to that effort. The expansion of our brownfields work is part of our community empowerment agenda, which is giving communities all over the country the tools they need to revitalize their neighborhoods. Initiatives such as the Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment program, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities, and the Department of Justice's Weed and Seed program are creating opportunities for growth and prosperity for all Americans.

Only by working together and strengthening our private-public partnerships can we improve and empower our urban and rural areas. Your participation at Brownfields '99 emphasizes the need to focus on cooperative approaches among federal agencies, community organizations, state and local governments, private industry, and academia to develop urban and rural brownfields.

Please accept my best wishes for all of you.

Sincerely,

Al Gore

AG/dss